

KARACHI

Sunset **05:43pm**
Sunrise (Tomorrow) **06:52am**

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum **15°C**
Maximum **31°C**
Humidity **55%**
Outlook **Sunny**

METRO South



Carnage as 19 wickets fall on opening day of first Ashes Test

Pg. 18 SPORT

Activists briefly detained for protest against 27th Amendment

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Police on Friday briefly detained about half a dozen people to prevent them from moving towards the Karachi Press Club (KPC) to take part in a protest organised by the opposition alliance Tehreek-i-Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP).

All roads leading to the venue of the protest were closed by the police after buses and other heavy vehicles were parked to block access. Contingents of female personnel were also deployed in addition to other personnel.

Some protesters were detained as they attempted to reach KPC.

Also detained was civil society activist Alifya Sohail, not part of the TTAP protest, who was initially taken to the Artillery Maidan police station, where her phone was taken from her and she was not permitted to contact anyone.

Civil rights activist and lawyer Jibran Nasir also highlighted the matter and claimed that she and another female activist were reportedly taken to the Women police station situated on Sharae Faisal.

PTI-Sindh spokesperson Mohammed Ali Bozdar told *Dawn* that “more than two dozen protesters” were detained near the KPC.

In the evening, a senior police officer said that all the detained activists were released.

Lawyer Jibran Nasir posted on X, formerly Twitter, that Ms Sohail and Farwa Askari “have been released after 5 hours of illegal detention”.

Meanwhile, another protest organised by the Tehriki-Numandagi Awam was held outside the KPC.

The protest brought together civil society members, activists and lawyers, who collectively rejected the 27th Constitutional Amendment.



POLICE bundle the protesters into a prison van in a Saddar Locality. —AFP

Mayor, PIDCL resolve disputes over Green Line extension project

Officials say stalled work on key transport scheme to begin soon; claim 1.8-km stretch from Numaish to Jama Cloth will be completed in one year

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: Work on the second phase of the Green Line project is set to revive after the high-ups of Pakistan Infrastructure Development Company Limited (PIDCL) met with Mayor Murtaza Wahab on Friday to address key concerns raised by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC).

A statement said that a delegation comprising PIDCL officials and federal government spokesperson for Sindh affairs Barrister Raja Khaliq uz Zaman Ansari met the mayor at his office and briefed him on the revised plan. “Mayor Wahab told the delegation that the Green Line works will be restarted immediately and completed within the stipulated time frame,” said the statement.

“The PIDCL team assured him that the remaining construction would be completed within one year.

During the briefing, officials informed the mayor that the 1.8-kilometre stretch from Numaish Chowrangi to Municipal Park (Jama Cloth) will be developed with three new bus stations, marking a significant expansion in the revised design.”

The decision to include these three additional stations has been finalised, the statement added.

The KMC, backed by the PPP-led Sindh government, had halted the federally funded multi-billion-rupee project in September, citing the PIDCL’s failure to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from municipal authorities before launching the work.

The municipal leadership of Karachi had challenged the authority of the federal government by questioning the role of its PIDCL in the urban development projects, insisting that all such initiatives in Karachi should fall under the city’s municipal jurisdiction.

The statement said that mayor Wahab, along with Barrister Raja Ansari, will formally announce the commencement of construction work next week.

The 1.8-kilometre-long extension phase of the Green Line from Numaish to Municipal Park on main M.A. Jinnah Road would include three stations with a Traffic Signal Priority (TSP) system planned exclusively for

the BRT service.

The TSP is a strategy where traffic lights are temporarily adjusted to favour specific vehicles, such as public transit or emergency vehicles, reducing delays and improving service reliability and response times.

The first phase of the Green Line project connects Surjani Town to Numaish. The second phase will connect Numaish to Municipal Park on the main M.A. Jinnah Road.

Envisaged and executed in February, 2016, by the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the Green Line project was originally scheduled to complete in a year with an estimated cost of around Rs16.85 billion. However, it was only partially completed in January 2022, after almost six years, with the cost reaching Rs35bn.

Desperately seeking better transport for decades, the people of Karachi gave a positive response to the service. About six million citizens travelled through its 80 buses during its initial six months of service.

The operational control of the Green and Orange Lines was officially transferred to the Sindh government in March 2025.

“Currently, the Green Line serves around 80,000 passengers per day,” said an official. “Once the first phase of the extension is completed, we expect daily ridership to increase up to 135,000.”

KMC invokes CB jurisdiction against regular bench’s decision to review concept of zoos

SHC issues notices and put off the matter till January 18

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: A constitutional bench of the Sindh High Court on Friday issued notices on an application filed by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) seeking to review the order of a division bench that enhanced the scope of a petition from relocation of brown bear Rano to examine the whole concept of keeping zoos and caging animals.

Earlier, a regular bench of SHC while hearing the main petition filed by an animal rights activist had decided to examine the whole concept of zoos and also sought suggestions how to phase out zoos in the entire province and sending the exotic animals to their natural habitats.

After the enactment of 27th Amendment and promulgation of a gubernatorial ordinance, all the petitions filed under Article 199 of the Constitution have been to constitutional benches (CBs) of SHC.

When the matter came up for hearing on Friday, a two-judge constitutional bench headed by Justice Adnan Iqbal Chaudhary issued notices to the parties concerned for Jan 18.

The KMC in its application submitted that the petition in question was exclusively pertaining to shifting of Rano and pursuant to an order of the SHC passed last month, the zoo bear was successfully shifted on Nov 5.

It argued that the petition had effectively served its purpose and ought to have been disposed of accordingly, but the division bench in its impugned order

enhanced the scope of petition to include welfare of all the animals kept at zoos.

The KMC stated that the division bench had exceeded its jurisdiction by enhancing the scope of the petition and stated that the bench under Article 175 (2) of the Constitution lacked jurisdiction.

It further submitted that in the impugned order, the SHC had also constituted a committee to visit zoos across the province and suggest steps for improvement as well as sending the exotic animals to their natural habitat.

However, the KMC stated

that the formation of such a committee and conferral of an extended mandate fell outside the scope of the original petition and therefore, the same was also beyond the bench’s jurisdiction.

The KMC pleaded to review and amend the impugned order and dispose of the petition.

Meanwhile, petitioner Jude Allen Pereira also filed an application seeking changes in his petition in the light of the SHC’s earlier order.

The court put the zoo authorities as well as officials of KMC on notice on his application.

Water shortage persists as another outage hits key pumping station

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Residents continued to face a worsening water crisis as repeated power outages disrupted the city’s water pumping operations on Friday, the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) said on Friday.

A KWSC spokesperson told *Dawn* that frequent power breakdowns at the Dhabeji and other pumping stations have caused an estimated total shortage of 335 million gallons of water, severely affecting the supply across Karachi.

Areas such as North Nazimabad, Gulberg Town, Gulistan-i-Jauhar, Scheme 33, various blocks of Gulshan-i-Iqbal, New Karachi, Saddar and Clifton are among those experiencing severe shortages.

The spokesperson said that the city’s crucial K-III pumping station in North Karachi experienced a major power breakdown late on Thursday night.

However, the KE claimed in a statement on Friday evening that power supply had been restored to the North East Karachi Pumping Station after fixing the underground cable fault. It said that the power utility faced problems in repair work due to accumulation of water.

The KWSC spokesperson recalled the station had also faced a significant breakdown on Nov 18, with electricity restored only a day after a 41-hour delay. Just hours later, the cable fault reappeared, forcing the station to shut down again.

The station had been temporarily shut down on Monday to fix technical issues, but problems persisted, he added.

KWSC officials stated that despite all administrative and technical efforts, the lack of consistent electricity supply continued to impact pumping operations.

They urged KE management to prioritise the immediate and stable restoration of power to pumping stations to ensure that the water supply to Karachi was quickly normalised.



Sharjeel calls on PM Shehbaz

KARACHI: Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad.

A brief statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office stated that both sides discussed overall political situation of the country.

Separately, Mr Memon met a delegation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and informed them that the provincial government was making every effort to complete the Bus Rapid Transit Red Line project as soon as possible.

“Karachi is a large and complex metropolitan city with underground and above-ground utilities belonging to various companies and agencies. Relocating these utilities for the Red Line BRT was a major challenge,” he said, according to a press release. —Dawn Report

Second phase of project for out-of-school children launched

CM Murad invites private entities to adopt educational institutions under Sindh’s digital learning programme

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah on Friday called upon private organisations and individuals to join hands with the government in promoting education, announcing that if any private entity or individual adopts a school under the Accelerated Digital Learning Programme (ADLP), the government would match their contribution by establishing another school bearing their name.

Addressing the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) programme of the Phase-II of the ADLP, he said that the initiative was aimed at underserved and out-of-school children across the province.

The ADLP, launched in Aug 2023, utilises digital technology to extend quality education to out-of-school children, especially in remote and underserved communities, using modern digital tools through “Micro Schools” for out-of-school kids and digital classrooms for students with flexible learning access.

In Phase-II of the ADLP, as many as 200 new “Micro Schools” will be established over the upcoming two fiscal years, facilitating access to digital learning for approximately 30,000 out-of-school children.

The launching ceremony, held at the CM House, was attended among others by Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah, Education Secretary Zahid Abbasi, SEF Managing Director Ganhwar Leghari, Shafiq Khan and Arshad Anis of Teach the World, Shahnaz Wazir Ali, Haji Nazim, Stephen Lyon, Imam Jahangir, Dr Kalbe Abbas, Javed Jabbar, Sultana Siddiqui and Zubair Chhaya.

The chief minister said that approximately 22.6 million children are out of school nationwide, with seven million in Sindh alone. The

number of out-of-school children in the country surpasses the total populations of many countries globally.

“This is why the Sindh government, in collaboration with the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), has decided to launch phase II of the Accelerated Digital Learning Programme,” he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Sardar Shah said that building upon the success of the pilot project, the Sindh government, through SEF, had approved the launch of ADLP Phase II, which would establish 200 new Micro Schools over the upcoming two fiscal years. “One hundred new centres have been made operational, which the chief minister inaugurated today, and a further 100 in 2026–27 will be launched next year,” he added.

The education minister said that the new centres would operate alongside the current 100 Micro Schools from Phase I, as they completed their full implementation cycle. “The



CHIEF Minister Murad Ali Shah inaugurates, alongside others, the 100 Digital Micro-Schools project.—Dawn

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